

2-26-2008

# The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock\\_2008\\_feb](https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock_2008_feb)

---

## Recommended Citation

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media, "The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008" (2008). *February*. 4.  
[https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock\\_2008\\_feb/4](https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock_2008_feb/4)

This Newspaper is brought to you by the 2008 at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in February by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact [dillarda@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:dillarda@mailbox.sc.edu).



# The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008

VOL. 101, NO. 100 ● SINCE 1908

## SEARCH FOR A PRESIDENT

Candidate Search Committee selects four executive search firms

Katie Jones  
STAFF WRITER

The Presidential Candidate Search Committee confirmed Monday their four choices for executive search firms, which would aid in the search for a new university president.

The four firms selected were R. William Funk; Isaacson, Miller; Heidrick and Struggles; and Korn/Ferry International.

"We've got a contrast between two smaller firms, where we would get the very senior person and two larger, international firms, but all of these firms appear to have very substantial contacts," said C.B. Smith, a committee member representing support foundations.

Smith said that R. William Funk and Isaacson, Miller are the two smaller firms, with Funk boasting the informal title of "guru of higher

education recruiting."

Isaacson, Miller operates out of Washington, D.C. According to Smith, "they have fewer similar institutions than the other three, but we were drawn to them because of the quality of their proposal."

Smith cited the reason in choosing Heidrick and Struggles was the fact that they are a top-rated international firm, as well as their experience.

"They have a tremendous amount of similar institution experience," he said.

Korn/Ferry International has a database of 4 million candidate profiles, which "is a few more than we'll need," Smith said.

Robert Best, a committee member representing faculty, expressed the faculty's desire to find candidates who display a commitment to all areas of academics.

"There are a number of themes

that seem to recur," he said. "One of the concerns was that whoever the president would be, would be somebody who has an appreciation for all of the different disciplines."

Best said a prominent faculty concern was for diversity in the candidate search.

"A number of people said this person should be committed to diversity and this was in the most general sense, but also in a specific way. People wanted to be sure this committee was soliciting applications from women, from African-Americans, recognizing that there is a growing Hispanic population in South Carolina."

Best also articulated faculty concerns on whether candidates should have extensive experience at "dean level or above."

However, the committee felt it best not to limit candidates so early in the search.

"We need to leave our options as wide open as possible," said Tommy Stepp, secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustee member John von Lehe, Jr. agreed

"I don't think we ought to restrict ourselves," Lehe said. "We need to leave it as open as we can at this stage."

Larry Pearce, director of publications, demonstrated the new presidential candidate search Web site and briefly described it.

"The university is a complicated place so we have to give a quick summary to tell them about it," he said of the Web site.

The committee went in to executive session to discuss candidates.

Comments on this story? E-mail  
gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

## AAAS: Forty years



Student organization  
celebrates anniversary

Sierra Kelly  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Association of African-American Students is celebrating its 40th anniversary today, during both Black History Month and Cultural Awareness Week.

A celebration called "Celebrating 40 years of African-American Excellence at the University of South Carolina" will be held in the Russell House Ballroom at 6 p.m.

Amber Guyton, president of AAAS and a fourth-year advertising student, said the existence of AAAS itself is an achievement.

Guyton said the organization was created to unify the few African-American students on campus five years after the university was reintegrated and to make the campus culturally

AAAS ● 2

## Tutoring Web site launched publicly

uProdigy.com offers  
tutoring for advanced  
classes at bargain price

Dave Ward  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A new online tutoring service aimed directly at college students and improving their studies, called uProdigy.com, launched last week.

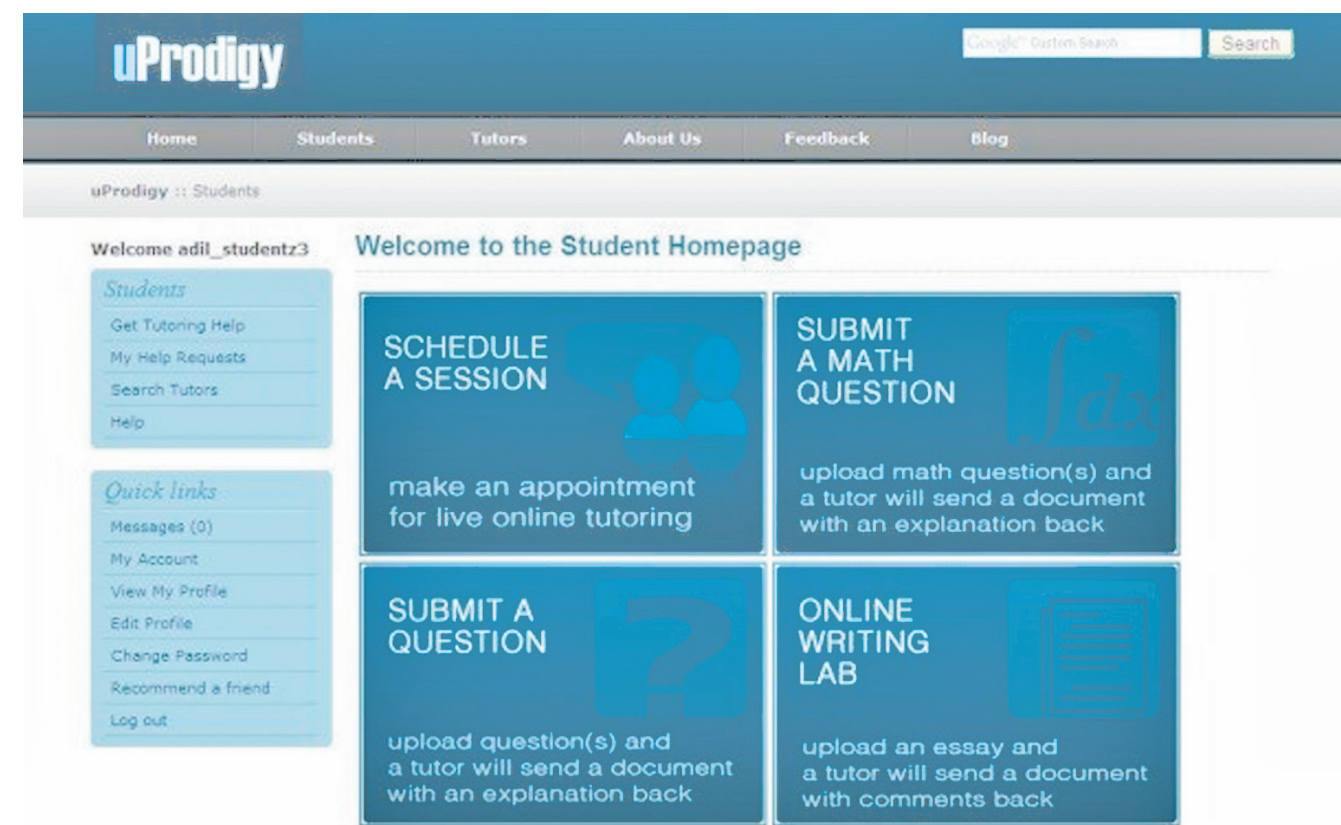
Syed Adil Hussain, creator and chief executive officer of the Web site, said his service aims to offer "quality and affordable academic tutoring to students in need."

The Internet start-up was selected as the winning entry in the Product and Services category in the MIT 100k Entrepreneurship Contest in the fall. The award and prize money is given to a company whose business plans show high growth potential. The Web site was selected as the most likely to succeed from over 100 other entrants into the competition. Hussain, a Harvard graduate student, said he started the company because he "couldn't afford the high prices normally charged for help in higher level math and wanted to help others in my situation." So instead of charging normal private tutoring rates ranging from \$60-\$70 an hour in some cases, he offers sessions for a flat rate of \$15 an hour, and students can be tutored in a vast number of subject areas.

While uProdigy.com began operating publicly last week, students from Boston-area colleges have been using the service since last October, and according to Hussain, "they've found it to be very effective."

"We've done a lot of research into what subjects that students need the most help in," Hussain said. Hussain said surveys showed 20 percent of students needed help in math, 20 percent needed hard sciences help, 15 percent needed help in essays and grammar and the rest needed help in the humanities.

The assistance available on uProdigy.com actually originates in South Asia, but Hussain said he is confident tutors are trained well enough to be as effective as any



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

uProdigy.com provides reasonably priced tutoring for students in a variety of classes.

face-to-face tutoring session.

"All of our tutors go through a rigorous training process, with three interviews and a battery of standardized tests."

"We only accept about 5 percent of the tutors that apply," he said, adding that at the moment most of his employees are based in India. According to the Web site, all of the tutors employed have at least a master's degree and some have a Ph.D. and/or prior teaching experience. The Web site offers tutoring services 24 hours a day.

"If you wanted to schedule a session at 4 a.m. in the morning, you could certainly do that," Hussain said. "Just go to the Internet, type in our URL, and we'll connect you to someone right away."

Jennifer Foster, a fourth-year studio art student who's previously been tutored in Spanish, found the idea promising.

"Everything else is online, so why wouldn't something like this be too," Foster said.

Foster said she's experienced

enough problems with free, campus-based tutoring to be willing to give uProdigy.com a try.

"Most of the students who come to do the tutoring on campus either don't show up or they're not very proficient in the subject or it only lasts for 30 minutes," Foster said.

Hussain said he understands missed appointments can happen with campus-based tutoring and he said that his tutors are professional and will be present for sessions.

"They'll definitely show up for tutoring appointments or they will be fired," he said.

Brandon Behun, a second-year business student who's never been tutored, also thought online tutoring was a good idea.

He said that uProdigy.com seemed to be the "most available and cheapest" alternative for students to look towards for tutoring help. "There seems to be a huge difference in their advertised rates and the costs of private tutoring," Behun said. Like Foster, he also said it was natural that tutoring be

offered online.

"Everything seems to be branching out online now," Behun said.

Hussain said that although his product is new, he's excited to expand the services to include more subjects and add tutors from around the world.

"We're looking into having Harvard and MIT students give pre-recorded lectures and we want to have a base of 15-20 core topics in every single subject," Hussain said. "This semester we're also offering one hour of free tutoring to each student, with no credit card required to get started."

He said he's doing this to expand and ultimately improve the tutoring services and other products offered from uProdigy.com.

"We really want to get feedback from students to help us improve our service," he said.

Comments on this story? E-mail  
gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

## Brown decision upheld

Committee to hold  
hearing today

Brad Maxwell  
NEWS EDITOR

The Office of Student Life found by a 2-1 vote sufficient reason to affirm the Constitutional Council's finding that presidential candidate Alesha Brown was guilty of elections fraud and an elections violation was filed against the candidate Monday.

The three-member panel included representatives from the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Student Judicial Programs and the Office of the General Counsel. "I'm shocked," Brown said. "We've done all we can do." Brown, a third-year political science student, appealed the decision of the Constitutional Council on Thursday after the council ruled in favor of the Elections

BROWN ● 2



**AAAS • Continued from 1**

aware of African-American heritage.

"Forty years later, AAAS still works towards this goal through our weekly meetings, special events and community service," Guyton said.

Guyton said the AAAS motto is "Each one reach one, each one teach one. What you do not know, you must learn. Once you learned, then you must teach."

Guyton said she carries this motto with her daily.

"We are only serving our purpose if we are teaching and learning, reaching out to the rest of the Carolina community," Guyton said.

Guyton said throughout Cultural Awareness Week the organization will be celebrating Black History Month, highlighting the organization's anniversary today.

"We will be honoring USC

African-American greats from the past and reuniting new and old AAAS members," Guyton said.

She said a few of the honorees include the three reintegrators of 1963: Harry Walker, the first African-American student body president; Jotaka Eaddy, the first female African-American student body president; and Ken Price, the first AAAS president.

Ashley Pauling, a third-year early childhood education student and the special events co-chair for AAAS, said Ken Price's daughters will accept his award on his behalf during the celebration.

"Ever since I've stepped on this campus I've seen people out on Greene Street promoting the organization, promoting what our campus needs," Pauling said.

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu*

**PIC OF THE DAY**

Allyson Smith/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**The view from Finlay Park on Laurel St. offers a great view of the Columbia skyline.**

**[ WEATHER ]**

TODAY



69 39

Tomorrow



51 30

**BROWN • Continued from 1**

Commission's ruling that Brown had committed elections fraud. She was charged with election fraud on Feb. 18 for raffling off a \$50 Blackberry cell phone using "Vote Brown for President" raffle tickets.

The code the Elections Commission said Brown violated prohibits "procuring, by the payment, delivery or promise of money, or other article of value, another to vote for or against any particular candidate or measure at any election."

Amanda Byrum, elections commissioner and a second-year English student, said the administration made the right decision.

"We made the appropriate ruling, the Constitutional made the appropriate ruling, as did Jerry Brewer

and the administration," Byrum said. A violation filed Monday said an individual behind a desk in the basement computer lab of Gambrell Hall was wearing an "Alesha Brown for President" t-shirt. The code cited in the violation says "no campaign materials may be placed in any official polling location (e.g. any USC computer lab)." The complainant said the person wearing the campaign T-shirt in the lab, whether a part of Brown's official campaign staff or not, was a violation of this code.

"Alesha shall be held accountable for that person's actions," the complainant said. The name of the complainant is withheld from public reports.

"Everything that's coming in now is petty," Brown said of the violation. "It's getting

ridiculous."

A hearing of the violation by the Elections Commission will be held today at 5 p.m. because a quorum of commissioners was not available Monday, Byrum said.

The results of the runoff elections will be announced after the hearing.

Brown received four infraction points by the commission last week for elections fraud. If Brown is found guilty today and receives one or more infraction points, she will be disqualified from the race.

"Everything happens for a reason," Brown said. "Last year I prayed to God and he worked it out. If he wants me to be Student Body President, then I'll be it."

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu*

**Crime Report**

Saturday, Feb. 23

**Public disorderly conduct, minor in possession of beer, possession of altered ID, 3:10 a.m.**

**1200 Whaley St.**

Ryan Clark was arrested after attempting to buy cigarettes with an altered ID. Clark was under the influence of alcohol, and police found alcohol in his vehicle.

**Reporting officer: T. Lyons**

**Burglary, petit larceny, 11 a.m. 315 Main St.**

The subject broke into two vending machines and removed \$517.70.

**Estimated damage: \$718**

**Reporting officer: M. Winnington**

**Malicious injury to personal property, 5:45 p.m.**

1212 Greene St.

Someone damaged a Coca-Cola vending machine.

**Reporting officer: M. Winnington**

**Disorderly conduct, 11:20 p.m. 1200 Whaley St.**

Nathaniel Whaley was arrested after being found under the influence of alcohol.

**Reporting officer: L.A. Diaz**

Sunday, Feb. 24

**Simple possession of marijuana, 10:55 p.m. 1405 Whaley St.**

Police seized a marijuana grinder, marijuana seeds and glass pipes from the subject.

**Reporting officer: Thompson**

Dear USC students,

The Ronald McDonald House helps sick children and their families in the Midlands. A way they raise funds for their charity is by collecting aluminum can tabs and selling them at \$0.52 per pound.

Let's show our concern for the community and get as many can tabs as we can from now through April 1st.

Spread the word at USC to drop off can tabs at the Copper Beech Leasing office on Sumter Street or the Clubhouse at the complex. We will donate them to the Ronald McDonald House.

Hope you all have a great day and thank you for your participation!!!

Thank you,  
Copper Beech Townhomes

Visit our leasing office  
downtown on Sumter and  
1051 Southern Dr. Columbia, SC  
803-255-0170 • www.CBeech.com

**BLUE MAN GROUP**

HOW TO BE A  
**MEGASTAR**  
TOUR 2.1

**TICKET GIVEAWAY**

**Win 2 tickets\***

**Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Colonial Center**

\*Winners will be announced March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Present your student I.D. at the box office to get up to 2 tickets for \$21.50 each (1/2 price off normal rate).**

**Visit [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com) to enter!**

**COLONIAL CENTER**  
HOME OF THE CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

Produced by Emery Entertainment and Pacific Arts Entertainment

WE DO IT DAILY

**Hard worker? Passionate about what you do? Work for Student Media!**

The Daily Gamecock

[www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com)

**garnet&black**

[www.garnetandblack.sc.edu](http://www.garnetandblack.sc.edu)

**90.5 WUSC FM**

[www.wusc.sc.edu](http://www.wusc.sc.edu)

**SG TV**

[www.sgtvonline.org](http://www.sgtvonline.org)

We are looking for talented, enthusiastic students to join our award-winning staff for the 2008 spring and fall semesters.

STUDENT MEDIA at USC offers students the opportunity to gain experience in print, broadcast and online media, advertising sales and graphic design. We have paid and volunteer positions and very flexible hours.

For more information, contact STUDENT MEDIA at 803-777-3888 or visit: [www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia](http://www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia).

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.





[www.cp.sc.edu](http://www.cp.sc.edu)



*Got Film?*  
STUDENT FILM COMPETITION  
March 25 • 8PM • RH Theater  
*Applications available at [www.cp.sc.edu](http://www.cp.sc.edu)  
Due March 3 to RH 227 by 5PM*



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MARCH 19 • 8PM • RH BALLROOM

APPLICATIONS  
AVAILABLE  
AT **CP.SC.EDU**

— **DUE** —  
**THIS FRIDAY!**  
**RH 227 • 5PM**

# Sexually Speaking WITH... DR. RUTH

MARCH 4 • 8PM • RH BALLROOM



**FREE for  
USC Students,  
Faculty and Staff  
with Valid ID**



**Tyler Perry's  
Why Did I  
Get Married?**

Thurs-Sun • 6PM  
RH Theater



**No Country  
for Old Men**

Thurs-Sun • 9PM  
RH Theater

MO125784



The Daily Gamecock

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor <b>JACKIE ALEXANDER</b>	Managing Editor <b>MICHAEL BAUMANN</b>
News Editor <b>BRAD MAXWELL</b>	Copy Desk Chief <b>CALLI BURNETT</b>
Assistant News Editor <b>LIZ SEGRIST</b>	Viewpoints Editor <b>AMANDA DAVIS</b>
The Mix Editor <b>PAUL BOWERS</b>	Sports Editor <b>ALEX RILEY</b>
Design Director <b>MEREDITH RAY</b>	Assistant Design Director <b>JULIA ANDERSON</b>

IN OUR OPINION

USC presidential search deserves more attention

Searching for a university president is like finding a prom date; ask early, or all the good ones will be gone.

While many students and alumni will pay closer attention to the search for basketball coach Dave Odom’s replacement, USC President Andrew Sorensen’s replacement will have a far greater impact on the lives of people to whom the university’s success is important.

The presidential search committee and the university need to get going, and soon.

When President Sorensen announced his plans to retire last December, he set a date of July 31 for leaving office, giving the school a little more than seven months to find a replacement.

Two months later, we’re still in the beginning stages of our search, having narrowed the field to four search firms, but no candidates.

While the search committee will most likely find someone who can do the job, it’s important to remember that we’re dealing with the people who couldn’t open the new baseball stadium on time.

And if we’re looking to find a new president by July 31, he has to have a contract, tie up loose ends at his or her old position and be installed in his new office and be ready to go by Aug. 1.

If that’s going to happen, the presidential search committee and the university need to get going, and soon.

No one wants to start next year in presidential limbo; it would be the equivalent of taking your cousin to prom, and no one wants that.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at [sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu).

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com) or send letters to the editor at [sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu)

About The Daily Gamecock

<b>Editor</b> <b>JACKIE ALEXANDER</b> <b>Managing Editor</b> <b>MICHAEL BAUMANN</b> <b>Copy Desk Chief</b> <b>CALLI BURNETT</b> <b>Assistant Copy Desk Chief</b> <b>LAUREN SMITH</b> <b>Design Director</b> <b>MEREDITH RAY</b> <b>Assistant Design Director</b> <b>JULIA ANDERSON</b> <b>News Editor</b> <b>BRAD MAXWELL</b> <b>Assistant News Editor</b> <b>LIZ SEGRIST</b> <b>Viewpoints Editor</b> <b>AMANDA DAVIS</b> <b>Assistant Viewpoints Editor</b> <b>JOSH RABON</b> <b>The Mix Editor</b> <b>PAUL BOWERS</b> <b>Assistant Mix Editor</b> <b>COLIN JONES</b> <b>Sports Editor</b> <b>ALEX RILEY</b> <b>Assistant Sports Editor</b> <b>MICHAEL AGUILAR</b> <b>Photo Editor</b> <b>LIZZY SHEPPARD</b> <b>Assistant Photo Editor</b> <b>CRISTINA KUBICKI</b> <b>Copy Editors</b> <b>MELANIE BYRUM, EDDIE COBB, STEPHANIE EWELL, ABIGAIL GARRISON, LIZ HOWELL, KERYN SENN, BOBBY SUTTON, KATHLEEN TENNANT, CATHERINE WALKER</b> <b>Staff Writers</b> <b>AUSTIN COLLINS, CHRIS COX, HALEY DREIS, SEAN GRUBER,</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b> <i>Offices located on the third floor of the Russell House</i> <b>Editor:</b> <a href="mailto:sagcked@mailbox.sc.edu">sagcked@mailbox.sc.edu</a> <b>News:</b> <a href="mailto:sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu">sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu</a> <b>Viewpoints:</b> <a href="mailto:sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu">sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu</a> <b>The Mix:</b> <a href="mailto:sagckets@mailbox.sc.edu">sagckets@mailbox.sc.edu</a> <b>Sports:</b> <a href="mailto:sagcksp@mailbox.sc.edu">sagcksp@mailbox.sc.edu</a> <b>Online:</b> <a href="http://www.dailygamecock.com">www.dailygamecock.com</a> <b>Newsroom:</b> 777-7726 <b>Sports:</b> 777-7182 <b>Editor's Office:</b> 777-3914 <b>Fax:</b> 777-6482	<b>KATIE JONES, ZACH LAMB, KEITH LOCKLEAR, ELLEN MEDER, THOMAS MALUCK, HALLEY NANI</b> <b>Public Relations Director</b> <b>ANDREA LUCAS</b> <b>Graduate Assistant</b> <b>EMILY VERNON</b> <b>Student Media Director</b> <b>SCOTT LINDENBERG</b> <b>Faculty Adviser</b> <b>ERIK COLLINS</b> <b>Creative Director</b> <b>EDGAR SANTANA</b> <b>Business Manager</b> <b>CAROLYN GRIFFIN</b> <b>Advertising Manager</b> <b>SARAH SCARBOROUGH</b> <b>Classifieds Manager</b> <b>SHERRY F. HOLMES</b> <b>Production Manager</b> <b>C. NEIL SCOTT</b> <b>Creative Services</b> <b>KEVIN ARCHIE, BEN BUCHANAN, MEGAN SINCLAIR, KAILLEY WARING, LIZZIE WILSON</b> <b>Advertising</b> <b>BEN CRANE, CARLY GALLAGHER, KATIE HUDSON, BEN LEBERTH, LAUREN SPIRES, JAYLENE WILLIAMS</b>	<i>The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.</i>
--	---	--	---



THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Nader should be allowed candidacy

Opponents must accept independent contender as worthy competition

Oh what a time we have come to in America when we show disdain for someone who practices his or her constitutional right to run for president.

As many already know, Ralph Nader, the man many feel is responsible for putting President Bush in the White House in 2000, declared his candidacy on NBC’s “Meet The Press” on Sunday. Nader’s candidacy is already being questioned and discouraged by Democrats, who claim that he will once again “steal” their votes and put a Republican candidate in the Oval Office in 2008.

Nader’s counter to this? If the Democrats are unable to win in November with or without his involvement, then they should just “wrap up, close down, [and] emerge in a different form.”

Nader has a point. If Democrats are so against the candidacy of a man who only managed to garner 0.3 percent of the vote in 2004, then perhaps they have larger fundamental problems. After all,



DARREN PRICE

Second-year print journalism student

Republicans seldom complain of a conservative independent candidate aiding the Democrats in elections. It is a known fact that there are some liberals who

will vote for Nader come November, just as in 2000 and 2004 — those who are tired of voting for solely Democrats or Republicans, and want an alternative.

For people to claim that his candidacy is “misguided” and to question his decision to practice his constitutional right to run for president is ridiculous.

The notion that he can be kept off the ballot with lawsuits, as in 2004, makes one question the “democratic” process we are so proud of. If there are people willing to vote for him in 2008, let him run, 2000 be damned.

Both Democratic presidential candidates Obama and Clinton promise something new if elected, but they only want that new something to come

by their hand. Based upon their rehashed responses to Nader’s candidacy, its hard to tell what changes they are really going to bring about.

If they promise to focus on change, then why not embrace Nader’s right to run for president, rather than questioning and belittling his motives for candidacy.

If people were only provided two choices for sodas as they are with politics, many would find it unacceptable. If they were questioned for their decision to drink Dr. Pepper over Coca-Cola or Pepsi on the basis that Dr. Pepper drinkers take away sales from Coca-Cola, it would be even more bizarre. Rather, in a consumerist society, you can drink what you want, when you want, despite the fact that it is not one of the two majorities.

Politics should be the same. If there are people out there who are willing to “waste” a vote on Ralph Nader because they are tired of Democrats and Republicans, then let them do it, and let the man give the people the chance to make the choice.

Cigarettes erase girls’ efforts to look good

Unhealthy, unglamorous future ahead for ladies who choose to puff it up

I was at a party about a week ago standing outside on the porch having a very interesting conversation with a girl. Not only was she a very attractive girl, but we were talking about something that not too many girls like to talk about: sports.

Usually, as a sports fan, I would say that any time you can come across a girl that enjoys talking about sports, you might as well get down on one knee and put a ring on her finger, because it could be years before you come across that kind of girl again.

So, we were talking and she was telling me what she thought the football team needed to do to improve for next season, and I was picturing in my head what she would look like about 20 years down the road.

Then all of a sudden, that dream turned into a nightmare when the girl I thought could be my first ex-wife blew a big fat cloud

of smoke into my face. Then I realized that she had her lips wrapped around a cigarette that honestly seemed longer than the finger that was holding it.

So, as quickly as I could, I pretended that I felt my phone vibrating, told her I had to answer it and got off

of that porch in less time than it took the basketball team to choke away the game against Mississippi State on Saturday.

Later that week I was walking to my political science class when another pretty good-looking girl approached my friend and me and asked both of us if we had a lighter she could borrow. My response, “No but you could just quit smoking.”

The point of this is very simple: if you are a very attractive girl, or even if you are a girl that thinks

she is attractive, smoking a cigarette can take you from being a perfect 10 to the image of some old woman with a saggy face dragging an oxygen tank with her.

Obviously, if you want to smoke, then that is certainly your right and I say go buy your pack of Virginia Slims to kill over the course of an evening. But just know, as gorgeous as your hair may look and as pretty as your outfit will be, the smell of cigarette smoke coming off of your breath will pretty much erase your efforts to look good.

Now, by no means am I one to tell anybody how to live their life, but just keep in mind that if you continue to smoke, the future of your life will probably depend on you spending years on a transplant list waiting for some 10-year-old kid to die so you can get a hold of his clean and pristine lungs.

It’s not cute, it’s not attractive and you really do look like a chimney. Like my second-grade teacher once said, “Smoke free is the way to be.”

Democrats seek favor, endorsement of Edwards

Candidates put former senator in tough spot by trying to earn support

BRAD PETIT

First-year graduate student  
Guest Columnist

It can’t be easy being John Edwards these days.

Like the only girl in school without a prom date, former Sen. Edwards is being heavily courted by the last two suitors, although in this case more than just a corsage and an escort may be in store.

As the Democratic primary drags on and as close as the race has been, each candidate is looking for whatever edge they can get to help corral a few extra precious delegates to their column.

Both candidates see an Edwards endorsement as an advantage they can’t afford to lose to the other side. Since Edwards dropped out of the race, Clinton and Obama have stayed in regular contact with Edwards and his people, largely in an effort to win the votes of working-class whites who had previously backed Edwards.

Edwards’ anti-establishment message and brand of inspirational populism seems to fit well with the Obama strategy. Yet his emphasis on economics and his appeal among the blue-collar set is generally thought of as being congruous with Clinton’s strengths.

It’s not hard to imagine Edwards covets another go at the vice presidency. His defeat along with Sen. John Kerry in 2004 didn’t dissuade him from making a run for this year’s nomination, and nor should we assume he’s ready to ride off into the sunset now.

The timing of Edwards’ departure from the current race was curious, coming only days before Super Tuesday. Edwards may have wanted to see who, if anyone, would come out looking like a future nominee who needed cozying up to, and perhaps he didn’t want to be accused of siphoning away votes from Clinton or Obama.

It appears the most likely potential nominee to pick Edwards as a running mate would be Clinton. He would provide gender balance to the ticket, first off, and also shore up her support among lower-income voters. She would also benefit, by association, from Edwards’ likability and emotional appeal, two areas where Clinton doesn’t always blow the voters away.

The bad news for Edwards is Obama may be pulling away from Clinton, and possibly for good. If this is true, it would do Edwards little benefit, as a career move, to back Obama’s rival and wind up out in the cold come VP-picking time. And yet backing Obama could have little long-term utility for Edwards, as he’s more of a long shot to land a spot on Obama’s ticket than on Clinton’s.

So what is Edwards to do? He could go for broke, back Clinton and hope it all works out. He could back Obama and hope for a cabinet-level or other federal appointment. Or he could just sit this one out and wonder whether his time in politics has passed.

Want to write for Viewpoints?  
Let us know at [sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu)



"Art is made by the alone for the alone." — Luis Barragan, architect

# Oscars surpass all expectations

*'No Country for Old Men' steals show, wins several awards*

Jim Gilmore  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The biggest suspense surrounding the 80<sup>th</sup> annual Academy Awards was not about what film or actor was going to win, but about whether the show was even going to occur.

With the writers' strike shutting down television for three months and claiming the Golden Globes ceremony in its wake, many were fearful this would be a year without Oscars. With only three weeks left to prepare a script after the strike was resolved earlier this month, you would have expected the Oscars to feel a little less than stellar.

Host Jon Stewart did a fabulous job however, acting much more relaxed and playful than the first time he hosted two years ago.

The big story of the night would be "No Country for Old Men," winner of four Academy Awards including Best Picture, the most of the night. Directors Joel and Ethan Coen won three of the film's four Oscars, for Adapted Screenplay, Director and Picture (an honor they shared with producer Scott Rudin). They join the esteemed company of such legends as Francis Ford Coppola ("The Godfather: Part II") and James Cameron ("Titanic") for having won three Oscars in a single night.

In a series of several surprises, none of the winners in the acting categories would be Americans: Spaniard Javier

Bardem won Best Supporting Actor for his menacing turn in "No Country," French actress Marion Cotillard won Best Actress for "La Vie en Rose" — the very first French-speaking performance to win — and Brits Daniel Day-Lewis and Tilda Swinton won Best Actor for "There Will Be Blood" and Best Supporting Actress for "Michael Clayton," respectively.

Diablo Cody, the stripper-turned-screenwriter, won Best Original Screenplay for her teen pregnancy comedy "Juno." Director Brad Bird gleefully accepted his second Academy Award for Animated Feature for Pixar's "Ratatouille."

"The Bourne Ultimatum" won all three of the awards it was nominated for—Best Film Editing, Sound Mixing and Sound Editing. One of the best moments of the night came in the category of Best Original Song, where Irish songwriters Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova won for their song "Falling Slowly" from the small Irish film "Once," beating out three songs from Disney's "Enchanted."

After Hansard delivered his half of the acceptance speech, the orchestra played off Irglova before she had a chance to speak. Following the commercial break, Jon Stewart pulled her back from behind the stage to say whatever she wanted. Her beautiful speech best summed up everything the night was about in simply saying, "It's possible."

The theme of the night seemed to be a celebration of the past. Montages featuring the acceptance speeches of famous winners were shown before announcing the winners of the acting and directing categories. The Oscars also provided a montage of the first 79 Best Picture winners in commemoration of its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In all, it was a night of glamour and celebration, and a perfect way to top off a year of fabulous movies.

Comments on this story? E-mail [sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu)



Mark J. Terrill/ The Associated Press

**Above: Writers Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, left, accept the Oscar for best adapted screenplay for their work on "No Country for Old Men" at the 80th Academy Awards.**



Amy Sancetta/ The Associated Press

**Below: Ethan Coen, right, and Joel Coen, center, pose together at the Governors Ball following the 80th Academy Awards.**



# 'Vantage Point' thrills viewers

Barry Levy's first movie attempt delivers unique action, captivating plot

"Vantage Point"  
★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

Ellen Meder  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Most first attempts are marked by flops. Despite the whiny remarks of snooty critics, director Pete Travis and writer Barry Levy of "Vantage Point" — both first-timers to the big screen — have created an intriguing, unique action thriller that does not subscribe to the typical plot. Grossing over \$7.8 million as No. 1 at the box office its opening weekend, the film walks the high-art, low-art line.

The premise for the film is a global terror summit held in Salamanca, Spain, which becomes the target of a terrorist plot during which the United States' president is shot and several bombs are detonated.

The movie separates itself from the pack of archetypal shoot-'em-up action flicks

by not only addressing a very current and touchy subject, but in the method of recounting the tale which is intertwined with the plot.

The gimmick is in the title and the tagline: "8 strangers. 8 points of view. One truth." But it is not obnoxious or monotonous, as one would expect. The tale begins with the take of the news reporters, cycling through the points of view of paranoid Secret Service Agent Thomas Barnes (Dennis Quaid), a Spanish undercover police officer (Eduardo Noriega), a clueless American tourist (Forest Whitaker), mysterious Secret Service Agent Kent Taylor (Matthew Fox), President Ashton (William Hurt) and finally the terrorists.

Each "act" of the film restarts the sequence of events and, although many in the audience initially groan at the prospect of seeing the same thing twice or more, each take leads further into the story as well as challenges what has already been presented as fact with new background details.

Mixed and frantic camera angles, some courtesy of



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**The plot of "Vantage Point" is told through the points of view of eight different people witnessing the same event.**

Forest Whitaker's character who feels the call of a strange duty to film the events and run toward danger and a naïveté that in reality would make him a great pickpocket mark, really add to the feeling of panic, much like the flashback montages.

Watching thousands of people tear through the streets, as if chased by bulls in Pamplona, really helps sell the actors' portrayal of the impending sense of doom linked with terrorism.

Although the film is very much an ensemble piece, Dennis Quaid carries the cast, and even those who formerly had distaste for the 53-year-old veteran actor are cheering for his undeterred character by the final chase sequence. Sure, he has some cheesy lines ("Mr. President,

I've got you,") but no one goes to an action film to hear an insightful sonnet.

But what is the viewpoint of the film on world affairs? Unlike many films that advance Hollywood's agenda, "Vantage Point" makes suggestions but really leaves it up to the viewers.

The only point-blank stance is that the news media highly censors anti-American sentiments and does not give the whole story to the public. It can be inferred that when Americans hear tiny notices in the news about a singular terrorist that America "won" and foiled some deeply tangled plot of technology-clad masterminds.

Also, William Hurt briefly

# TV goes digital

Analog television signals to be phased out in early 2009

Rick Kushman  
MCT Campus

At midnight next Feb. 17, all analog television transmissions will stop, and TV signals will become digital. If you have any kind of digital cable or satellite service, or you get your reception from an antenna but have a digital receiver inside your TV, you won't notice.

If you use an antenna for an analog TV, you will need a converter box. Those run \$50 to \$70, and government discount coupons worth \$40 are available. Each household can get two coupons, but sellers accept only one coupon per converter.

Also, digital transmission is already going on, so you can switch at any time.

After that, it gets a bit more detailed, and I'm going to break down the questions into a few basic categories:

## Converter boxes

Every TV in the house needs its own digital connection, either through cable, satellite or a converter.

The boxes are supposed

to be very easy to connect, and you shouldn't need to pay for help. The boxes are becoming available at most major electronics retailers.

## Cable

If you have cable, you won't have to get a converter or shop for other equipment. But that doesn't mean your cable company won't force a change on you, and if they do, they'll come to you.

If you have digital cable now, nothing more is needed. But, if you have an analog box or analog cable through a wall connection, it will depend on your company.

Some cable companies will let you keep the analog equipment, and they'll convert the signal for you. But many companies are switching to all-digital — because it's better for them — meaning they'll bring you a digital box.

If they do go all-digital, each TV in the house will need its own box.

Will that cost you more? It depends on what level of service you take. The basic analog and digital packages cost the same right now. But let's be realistic: How often do changes not end up costing more?

## VCRs

If the VCR just sits there

DIGITAL ● 6

VANTAGE ● 6



**VANTAGE • Continued from 5**

conveys that perhaps the U.S. should not strike back against terrorists militarily and “give them what they want.” But no point is truly hammered home except that things are not always as they seem.

Surprise after surprise, the plot twists and friend-or-foe identifiers stay discreet until their unveiling, except for the climax. Without giving too much away, many viewers will be shocked at their own squirming and cringing at the prospect of a singular child getting run over in a freeway, immediately after they coldly accepted a major

loss of life resulting from two bombs.

“Vantage Point” provides a springboard for thoughts about morality and the global political climate without throwing anything in the audience’s face except for a few topical buzzword countries and some terrorist organization name-dropping (Mujahadin, for instance). The film will not likely receive Oscar nods this time next year, but expect good things from Barry Levy. For a high suspense thriller, “Vantage Point” delivers.

*Comments on this story? E-mail sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu*

## Swissotel bans smoking, fines violators heavily

*Chicago hotel rewards housekeepers who crack down on rule breakers*

Louis R. Carlozo  
*MCT Campus*

**CHICAGO** — Ever since she was a little girl in the Robert Taylor Homes, Linda Davis has hated cigarette smoke. The soft-spoken Swissotel housekeeper, who wears a four-star-crisp white apron and immaculate matching sneakers and socks, winces at the memory of her mom filling her childhood home with billows of smoke.

To demonstrate how it makes her feel, she massages her temples as if fighting off another tension headache — the kind she gets only when facing the remains of cigarettes, pipes or cigars.

Especially cigars. “They’re the worst,” says Davis, 34, her ever-present smile curdling for a moment in disgust.

Back when her mother

turned the family apartment into a smoke box, Davis fought back by flinging open the windows, even when winter weather might discourage it. Now, when Davis walks into a room and catches that telltale scent — and she can always catch it, thanks to her hair-trigger headaches — she sets about freshening the premises, changing the linens.

Then she turns the guest in, for which she gets a \$10 reward — while the offender gets a \$250 fine.

Swissotel isn’t the first Chicago hotel to ban smoking and levy stiff penalties against rule-breakers. But with a top-to-bottom renovation of 632 rooms under way, Swissotel is getting extra tough, paying housekeepers such as Davis for turning in no-smoking scofflaws. Swissotel is the only hotel in the country that rewards staff for collaring smokers in its rooms, according to the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

**DIGITAL • Continued from 5**

and plays tapes of movies that your kids watch 10 times a week, you don’t need to bother with anything.

If you get your TV from an antenna and record with your VCR, you’ll need a converter box leading into the VCR, but you shouldn’t need another box for your TV in most cases.

However, if you have separate antenna feeds into your VCR and TV — this would mean you can watch one channel and record another — both the TV and VCR will need boxes.

**TiVo**

If you have TiVo hooked to an analog antenna, it will depend on the age of your box. Many newer TiVos have digital receivers and don’t need converter boxes. Check your manual or your supplier.

**Portable TVs**

Some newer models have digital receivers built in, and the manual should tell you. But many small TVs are still analog, and that means you’ll need a converter box.

However, the converters won’t have their own power or run on batteries, so you’ll likely only be able to use the little portable if you can plug it, and the box, into an outlet somewhere.

For more information on the conversion, check the

FCC Web site, [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov), or call (888)225-5322.

To order converter box coupons, or to get more information about them, go to [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

And now, some actual television.

Tuesday at 10 p.m. EST, NBC starts a new series, “quarterlife,” that’s the first official Internet-to-network drama. Actually, it’s a TV-to-Internet-to-TV drama, because the producers first tried to sell it to the networks.

The show launched online in November, then NBC picked it up, and the network swears it had nothing do to with the fact writers were on strike at the time. It’s still all available in 30 eight-minute segments on [www.quarterlife.com](http://www.quarterlife.com).

All around, it would be a cool little development for TV—if the show were better. That’s both a disappointment and a surprise.

That’s because “quarterlife” comes from accomplished producers Marshall Herskovitz and Edward Zwick, who created the brilliant teen drama “My So-Called Life” and the dead-on series “thirtysomething.” They clearly like to examine the little details of life, as well



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Next year, all cable providers will switch over to digital signals, requiring some people to get converter boxes.**

as to put the titles of their shows in lower case.

This one splits in the middle on age. It’s about a bunch of mid-20-year-olds who are, of course, trying to find themselves. The irony and intelligence are admirable, but “quarterlife”

is missing the usual graceful touch. Instead of reflective, everyone just sounds whiney and self-involved, and it’s hard to stay with them long enough to get to like anyone.

## ‘Express’ board games: more fun in less time

**Smaller versions of old favorites condense game board for convenience**

Stacy Downs  
*MCT Campus*

I confess: I’m a board game geek.

Clue is a blast. It’s thrilling to learn whodunit and find out just where in the mansion Mr. Boddy meets his untimely demise. Was the murder weapon the revolver, the candlestick or the rope?

I’m always up for Trivial Pursuit, Risk or Battleship. And after I discovered a 1930s board game called Star Reporter, I just had to buy it on eBay.

But my board-game days came to a halt nearly two years ago after my first child was born. Spare time is rare now. So when I recently learned about the new, sped-up versions of classic board games with the slogan “take a 20-minute game break,” I was intrigued. Would express versions of Monopoly, Scrabble and Sorry! be as much fun as the originals? I decided to roll the dice and find out.

**MONOPOLY EXPRESS**

The games in Hasbro’s

Express series each come in round 6-inch diameter plastic boxes, a definite plus because they’re better for traveling and storage than bulky cardboard boxes that rip apart around the edges.

To play Monopoly Express, my husband, Richard, brother Randy and our friend Ricky gathered at my parents’ house, a great venue because it has a wonderful game table and free babysitting. Growing up, Randy and I were competitive playing the original Monopoly, so we highly anticipated discovering a new way to play the game.

The Monopoly Express game board is slightly larger than a compact disc. All the players laughed at its diminutive size because it suffered the same scale problem as Stonehenge in “This Is Spinal Tap.” The tiny board also was challenging for us 20- and 30-somethings to read.

Figuring out the rules took longer than playing the actual game, which involves rolling 10 or 11 dice. There are four green houses, but missing are the fun silver game tokens, hotels, Community Chest cards, Chance cards, array of properties and, the best part, colorful cash. Colors on the Monopoly Express



John Multrux / The Associated Press

**Monopoly Express has a small board and fewer pieces.**

board represent properties, but you don’t retain any of them turn to turn.

“This doesn’t feel like Monopoly,” Randy said. “The fun of Monopoly is landing on expensive property with a bunch of hotels and wheeling and dealing.”

My feelings exactly. So after playing a couple of 20-minute games of Monopoly Express, we went on to old-school Monopoly. It took more than three hours to play one game, but the board got interestingly scary as players filled the coveted blue and green properties with hotels. I wasn’t the winner (Richard was), but I beat Randy, so I felt victorious.

I also won a game of Monopoly Express, but that came from rolling dice and

hardly any strategizing, so I didn’t feel the rush of triumph like I do with the original.

I’d play Monopoly Express again only if there were no other games in the house.

**SCRABBLE EXPRESS**

The original Scrabble is my favorite game. Richard and I played almost weekly before our son, Alex, was born. We have fond memories of playing the travel version on a mountain-hiking break in Arizona.

So it was fitting that Richard and I play Scrabble Express on a rainy Sunday afternoon while Alex was napping. We were skeptical when we saw that dice with letters had replaced the beloved wooden tiles. But the fold-out board — happily much larger than the Monopoly Express one — looks like a miniature replica of the original with double and triple letter and word scores.

Playing Scrabble Express also feels a lot like the original. It begins on the star in the middle of the board, and letters are drawn out of a bag.

“I really like this,” Richard said. “I’d play again.”

**KAPLAN**

TEST PREP AND ADMISSIONS

### A personal copy of every available LSAT® PrepTest

Want more practice material to take home?  
You'll get over 5,400 questions with difficulty rankings and complete explanations of both right and wrong answer choices.

**Register Now for Upcoming Class Starts:**

3/17-Meets Mon/Wed  
3/29-Meets Wed w/ Sat Tests

Kaplan gets more people into law school than any other LSAT prep company.

**Score higher on the LSAT—guaranteed or your money back.\***

**1-800-KAP-TEST | [kaptest.com/lsat](http://kaptest.com/lsat)**

\*LSAT is a registered trademark of the Law School Admission Council, Inc. \*Conditions and restrictions apply. For complete guarantee eligibility requirements, visit [kaptest.com/lag](http://kaptest.com/lag). The Higher Score Guarantee applies only to Kaplan courses taken and completed within the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and France. LSA01693

# WIN 2 TICKETS TO THE FREE STYLE MOTOCROSS



GO TO [DAILYGAMECOCK.COM](http://DAILYGAMECOCK.COM) & CLICK ON THE MOTOCROSS BUTTON TO ENTER

**MARCH 15**

**CONTEST WINNERS** announced March 7.  
Buy your ticket with your Carolina Card!



COLONIAL CENTER  
HOME OF THE CAROLINA GAMECOCKS



## GIVE PLASMA GET CASH

Donate plasma and earn **CASH TODAY!**

## URGENT

Plasma donations are needed to help save burn, trauma, and shock victims

**ZLB Plasma Services**

215 Assembly St.  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-254-2281

[www.zlbplasma.com](http://www.zlbplasma.com)

Fees and donation times may vary. New donors please bring a Photo ID, proof of address, and a Social Security card.



## Capital NAILS & SPA

PROFESSIONAL • FRIENDLY • RELAXED

**GRAND OPENING!**

Full Service Nail Care  
Pedicure Spa Treatment  
Full Body Massage  
Waxing

**FULL SET \$2 OFF  
PEDICURE \$2 OFF**  
Please bring this AD Expires March 15, 2008

**Next to ADDAM'S BOOK STORE**  
128 Assembly Street • Columbia, SC 29201  
[capitalnailandspa@gmail.com](mailto:capitalnailandspa@gmail.com) • 803.255.0090



# the scene at USC

## BAYSIDE, STRAYLIGHT RUN, FOUR YEAR STRONG, THE STATUS

Today, 7 p.m., \$14  
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St



### TODAY:

#### RING OF FIRE

7:30 p.m., \$36 - \$46  
Koger Center, 1051 Greene St.

#### BAYSIDE, STRAYLIGHT RUN, FOUR YEAR STRONG, THE STATUS

7 p.m., \$14  
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

#### WILL HOGE, JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT

9 p.m., \$15  
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

#### OPERA ON THE NILE PRESENTED BY THE PALMETTO OPERA

7:30 p.m., \$30  
Columbia Museum of Art, 1515 Main St.

#### THE WALKER

6 and 8:15 p.m., \$5.50  
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

#### ACOUSTIC CAFÉ

9:30 p.m., Free  
Russell House Starbucks

### TOMORROW:

#### OBRASKAI, DECADENCE, HOUR ZERO

8 p.m., \$7  
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

#### LORENE DRIVE, FAREWELL, COURIER

7 p.m., \$7  
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

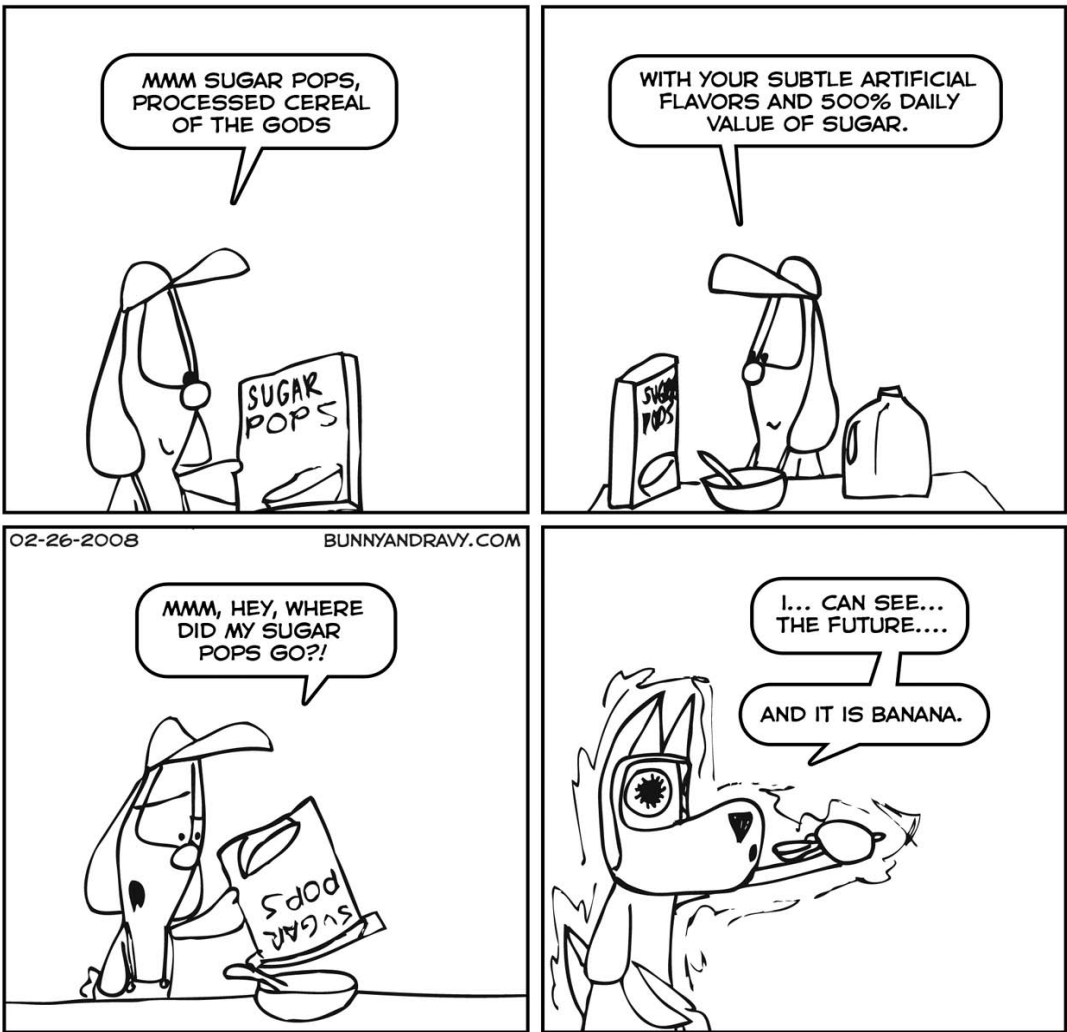
## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** Careful computation is required, and a good eraser. There may be a few items you'll have to take away from your list. Set priorities, so you can maintain hope you'll get them later. **Taurus** Set up your team to win. Make sure they know what needs to be done. Provide constant encouragement; this isn't going to be easy. **Gemini** You're into the difficult part. Your goal seems impossible. Don't lose faith and toss it out, make it into smaller chunks. Get there one step at a time. **Cancer** Jointly held finances are a hot topic now. This includes the household money, loans and investments. Don't even mention speculation.

Don't risk security. **Leo** Somebody can find disagreement with just about everything that's said. Don't get into the middle of the conflict unless you must, to keep the peace. **Virgo** You're good at telling the difference between fact and fantasy. You may also find a few superfluous things you could do without. Exercise good judgment. **Libra** Not a good day to gamble. Don't even kid around. The odds are too high. You'd trip over your own feet and hurt yourself. Watch where you're going. **Scorpio** Taking a little risk seems to be a worthwhile endeavor. It isn't, though. Wagers you make now are more likely to go the other way. Better zip your lip.

**Sagittarius** It's good to make long lists. You're still in control, however. Situations change. You can scratch things off without ever achieving them. They're your lists. **Capricorn** Beware of false friends who are after your money. They may try to sell you something you don't need. Don't take their word for it; do your own research. **Aquarius** Not a good time to offer fanciful suggestions. Keep your dreams to yourself, for now. Keep working the job and you'll get there, eventually. **Pisces** Expand your search, but keep private what you're actually finding. You don't want to encourage a lot of competition. Hold onto your advantage.

## Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



## Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



## PhD ♦ By Jorge Cham



## Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

2/26/08

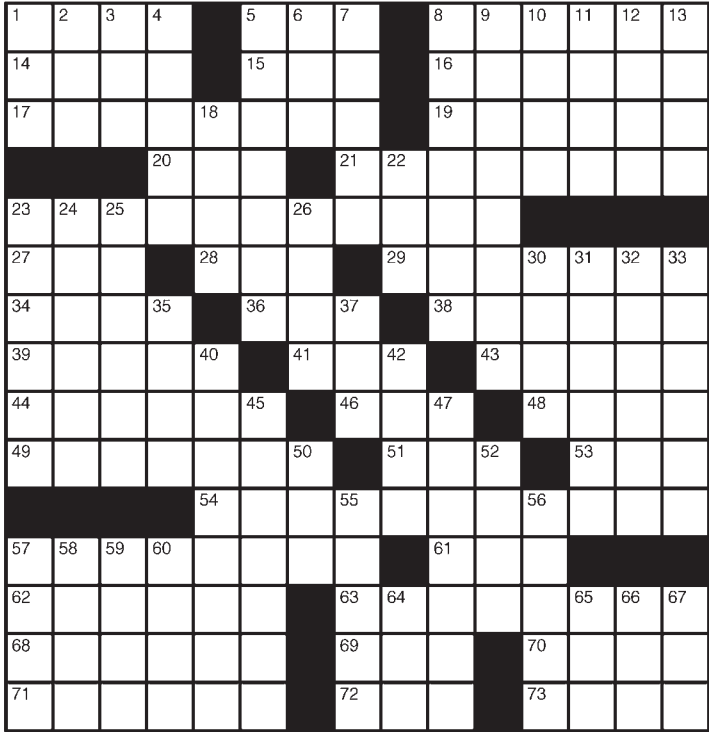
Brought to you by:

Reach thousands  
of readers on DailyGamecock.com

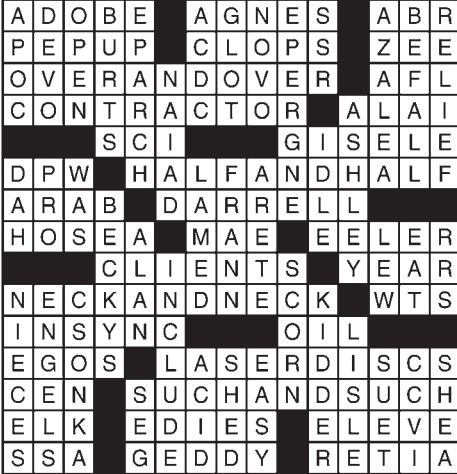
For more information on online advertising, please call 777.5064

### ACROSS

- 1 Sprinkle after a shower
- 5 Wood cutter
- 8 Lives
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Coach Parseghian
- 16 Antenna
- 17 With 63A, quotable U.S. money man
- 19 Made over
- 20 One in Central America
- 21 Grew gloomier
- 23 Start of advice from 17A
- 27 Fellows
- 28 Visualize
- 29 Fashion magazine
- 34 Roses' places
- 36 Sot's shakes
- 38 Essential amino acid
- 39 Lucas folk
- 41 More of advice
- 43 Dish stewed in wine
- 44 Peruse again
- 46 Brace amount
- 48 Fed. agent
- 49 Harbor town
- 51 Tentacle
- 53 Fruit juice drink
- 54 End of advice
- 57 California
- winter wind
- 61 Actress Scala
- 62 Minimum attendance required
- 63 See 17A
- 68 Girl or woman
- 69 Decade count
- 70 Alleviate
- 71 Nervous vibration
- 72 Latin lesson word



### Solutions from 2/25/08

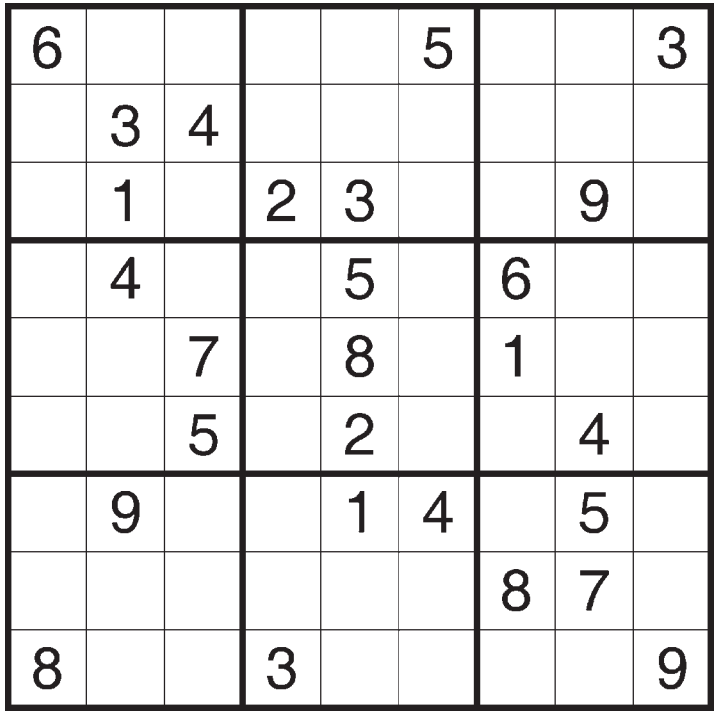


- exams
- 31 Wildcatter, e.g.
- 32 Destroyed
- 33 Checked (horses)
- 35 Beehive
- 37 Mach topper
- 40 Brazilian city
- 42 Absent
- 45 Visionary
- 47 Aromatic herb
- 50 SPIKE formerly
- 52 Primary
- 55 US-Mex.-Can. union
- 56 Does yard work
- 57 Surface meas.
- 58 Violinist Leopold
- 59 Iditarod goal
- 60 Trolley car
- 64 "Monster" group
- 65 Set down
- 66 NASA outpost
- 67 Trawling device

## Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

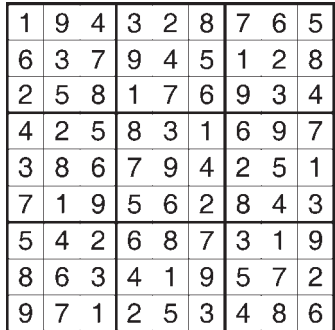
2/26/08



### Level 1

How to Play  
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

### Solution for 2/25/08



Our townhouses are filling up fast!

Copper Beech  
TOWNHOMES

You can always visit our leasing office on Sumter St. 803-255-0170



# Senior accepts chance to earn team captaincy

Disher looks to end career as leader who takes Gamecocks back to College World Series

Drew Lattier  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

In the spring of 2004, an 18-year-old Phil Disher watched his first game as a member of the Carolina baseball team. Redshirting his freshman year, the young ballplayer dreamed of being out on the field starting someday for USC.

Fast-forward four years to last weekend's opening game against Eastern Carolina.

The kid who had dreamed of being a baseball star opened up the season this year hitting two home runs and tallying five RBIs in Carolina's 22-5 dismantling of ECU. If it sounds like Disher has come a long way since that red-shirt season in '04, it's because he has.

In 2005, Disher got his first chance to play. Starting seven games in the season, the second-year player put up two home runs, two doubles and 11 RBIs on the year. Disher worked hard the summer after that season playing in the Valley League and was selected to the Valley All-Star team.

2006 brought 15 starts for the improving player, splitting the starts between catcher and designated hitter. Disher had a solid year that culminated in being named MVP of the NCAA Charlottesville Regional.

Playing summer ball again in 2006, Disher elevated his level of play enough to become a regular starter in the 2007 season.

"You've just got to be patient and stick it out, I came out every day ready to give my best those first two years," Disher said.

A senior in the classroom but junior on the field, Disher had a breakout year in '07, hitting .328 with 15 home runs and 63 RBIs. Disher was selected as an All-American that season as



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC designated hitter Phil Disher (shown in a game last season) hit two home runs in last weekend's season-opening series against No. 22 East Carolina.

well as receiving All-SEC honors as a designated hitter.

With this year's baseball season starting last weekend, it's apparent that Disher is going to be a major factor on the team. He will continue to play either designated hitter or catcher, sharing the duties behind the plate with Kyle Enders.

Rising as a leader among his teammates, the senior was named player of the fall and also one of the three captains for this season.

"Guys look to the captains for advice and leadership on and off the field and I'm going to step up to that position this year," Disher said.

The catcher put in a lot of work during the off-season to get prepared for his last season at USC.

"I worked with strength coach Billy Anderson the majority of this summer," Disher said. "My main focus was to get stronger, faster and in better shape for the season."

Disher has been at USC since the fall of 2003, and he's seen and been a part of quite a bit of Carolina baseball history. However, there are still goals yet to be achieved for him.

"I've been here for a couple of teams that have gotten stuck at super regionals," Disher said. "We want to make it to Omaha this year."

In the classroom, Disher is in his fifth year finishing up his major in exercise science and a minor in coaching. After this year, he hopes to play baseball somewhere before possibly becoming a coach.

Disher is excited and thankful to be a part of yet another Carolina baseball season.

"It's been great to be in a program that's associated with winning like this. Baseball here at USC has been an excellent experience for me," Disher said.

Phil Disher has come an incredibly long way since his days as a redshirt freshman in the 2004 season. Through hard work and constant practice, he has more than earned his starting spot on the team. This is his last season, and both Disher and the rest of his teammates have the highest hopes for what could be an amazing year.

Comments on this story?  
E-mail [sagcksp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagcksp@mailbox.sc.edu)

## Sports struggles continue as drought rages onward

Pro Bowl, NBA All-Star games only disappoint in search for worthy action

As you all probably remember I wrote a column several weeks ago about The Drought because I know that you all just sit there waiting until The Daily Gamecock comes out every morning and quickly flip to the sports section searching for my column. Well, I'm writing this one to update you on my progress through The Drought, how I'm doing, how things are going and what I'm up to.

The first thing I took part in to appease my yearning for football was my first Pro Bowl tailgate party. The Pro Bowl is the most meaningless all-star game for the most important pro sport in all of the U.S. What did I do? I tailgated for it; I broke out the chicken wings and burgers, the beer and of course the chips and dip. I think that even the people who go to the Pro Bowl don't tailgate for it, but I was desperate and desperate times call for desperate measures.

The first annual Pro Bowl tailgate helped ease me into The Drought like a nicotine patch helps a smoker ease off tobacco. Basically, what I'm saying is that it didn't. Tailgating for the Pro Bowl only made me crave football more and more. So what I had to do, in turn, was begin tailgating for all the all-star games. For the Army All-American game, the Shrine Bowl, the Under Armor All-American game, the Texas vs. the Nation Bowl (starring Blake Mitchell) and many, many more.

By the time the postseason games were over, I was in a sad state. It would be as if our hypothetical smoker went from smoking one pack a day to using three cases of nicotine patches a day, wearing the patches like a four-year-old wears stickers.

Through the help of my close family and friends, I realized that I had to change something. I had to

move on; I had to get my life together and figure out a solution. So I started to move on to other sports. I watched the Duke vs. North Carolina game and actually worked up some passion about it. It felt good to see some energy in the college world again, to feel something. After weeks of getting my weak fix after weak fix from college football postseason all star games, I felt like I was making headway.

Then, everything came to a crashing halt when a lull in the college basketball

season hit. The Gamecocks had a couple of away games and baseball was still a few weeks away. The next really exciting matchup was the same weekend as

MICHAEL AGUILAR  
Third-year English student

the start of baseball, with Tennessee traveling to Memphis. I was desperate; I felt like I had made so much progress and now it was all in danger.

I watched college hockey on TV. I watched a couple of women's basketball games. I went to the South Carolina Class A/AA State High School wrestling championships. Then I woke up one morning sitting on my couch in my underwear, surrounded by cheese puffs and with the number to call to pick up a season highlight from Sports Illustrated commemorating the Giants' Super Bowl victory.

I've hit a couple low points along the way. But baseball season is finally here and, even though we had a rocky start, we looked strong. I think that I've finally made it. I think that I've gotten far enough so that I'll be able to survive until next season starts; the first couple months are always the hardest.

We'll see if I really have when the spring game gets here, or if I just fall off the map again. I'll keep you posted.

## For Rosenblatt, CWS hopes rest on council

Omaha, government working on deal to keep championship

Oskar Garcia  
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — As Omaha and NCAA officials negotiate a long-term College World Series deal, backers of the effort to keep the series at Rosenblatt Stadium say their hopes may rest with pressuring the City Council to reject plans for a new stadium.

If the stadium were to be publicly financed, plans would have to go to the City Council.

But if the council were to vote against those plans, Rosenblatt proponents said, their proposal could get more consideration.

"It'll be a gloves-off fight to the very end, and we will not give in and (Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey) will

not give in," Jason Smith, chairman of the group Save Rosenblatt, said Monday.

Fahey has long backed a new stadium as the best option for Omaha, saying it lets the city wrangle a longer deal with the NCAA and would spark long-term development in south Omaha near the zoo and in north downtown where the stadium would be built.

During a meeting Tuesday with NCAA officials, Fahey is expected to commend a new ballpark on two Qwest Center parking lots as the city's best option. Fahey and Ken Stinson, the chairman of Fahey's stadium review committee, refused to give plan details or explain until after the meeting why the committee decided a new stadium would be better than renovating



### PHIL DISHER

Redshirt Senior from Aiken  
Plays catcher/designated hitter  
Bats Right/Throws Right

Named a third team All-American by NCBWA and a first team All-SEC player as a designated hitter last season.

Disher earned 2006 NCAA (Charlottesville) Regional MVP honors following a his three home runs and 10 RBI performance at the plate.

Currently has 23 career home runs (15 last season) and a career average of .297 at the plate.

## Sampson agreement includes clause to cooperate

Former Indiana coach must comply with NCAA as part of investigation

Michael Marot  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Former Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson's separation agreement with the university will not be finalized until March 17.

Sampson signed the deal Friday, but university spokesman Larry MacIntyre said Monday the Hoosiers' ex-coach has 21 days to revoke the deal that includes provisions which prevent Sampson from suing the university.

The agreement, which was obtained through a Freedom of Information request, also requires Sampson to continue cooperating with the NCAA investigation and bars him from interfering with any team activities.

"Sampson shall not interfere in any way with the activities of the men's basketball team and shall not discourage the current members from cooperating with the transition to a new head coach, from remaining active members of the team, and from playing to their full potential in all competition events," the agreement states.

Sampson took a \$750,000 buyout Friday in return for his immediate resignation after the NCAA accused him of five major rules violations.

The university also included a clause saying that the deal does not, in any way, indicate Sampson believed he had any legitimate legal claims against the school.

Indiana has until May 8 to respond to the NCAA charges and is scheduled to appear before the infractions committee June 14 in Seattle. A decision is expected within 30 days of

the hearing, where Sampson has said he looks forward to defending himself. The university could also ask the infractions committee to move the hearing up to April although there is no guarantee the request would be granted.

Sampson took the Indiana job in March 2006 and two months later was penalized by the NCAA for making 577 impermissible phone calls between 2000 and 2004 when he was coaching Oklahoma.

The second wave of charges emerged in October when a university investigation found Sampson and his staff made more than 100 impermissible calls while still under recruiting restrictions and that Sampson participated in at least 10 three-way calls, another violation of the NCAA's punishment.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan called the violations secondary,

imposing a one-year extension of the NCAA's recruiting restrictions and pulling a \$500,000 raise. The Hoosiers also took away one scholarship for the 2008-09 season.

However, an NCAA report released Feb. 13 by Indiana claimed Sampson provided false and misleading information to investigators from both the university and the NCAA, failed to meet the "generally recognized high standard of honesty" expected in college sports and failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance within the program.

Sampson has denied intentionally providing investigators with false information, and the university's deal says he is expected to cooperate with the adjudication process.

"Sampson shall fully cooperate with the NCAA



**SAMPSON • Continued from 8**

process with regard to any NCAA investigation, proceeding or hearing, relating to or indirectly arising out of Sampson's activities as the head men's basketball coach of Indiana University's men's intercollegiate basketball team or the operations or activities of Indiana University's men's intercollegiate basketball team or any coaches or staff members during the period of April 20, 2006 and including the effective date."

Following the NCAA report, university president Michael McRobbie

announced IU would take a second look at the charges, setting a Friday deadline for Greenspan to make his recommendation.

Before the recommendation was announced, the two sides negotiated a settlement and Indiana named Dan Dakich, who played and coached under Bob Knight, interim coach for the rest of this season. Dakich won his first game Saturday at Northwestern to keep the Hoosiers in position to contend for their first outright Big Ten title since 1993.

The 12th-ranked Hoosiers host Ohio State on Tuesday night.

**CWS • Continued from 8**

Rosenblatt.

"The City Council has to be brought into this because of financing obligations," said Joe Gudenrath, the mayor's spokesman. "The mayor has briefed the City Council on numerous occasions ... and continues that discussion with them."

The most recent estimates to build a new stadium near the Qwest Center are between \$130 million and \$140 million, about \$60 million more than an estimated renovation of Rosenblatt.

The current contract between the NCAA and Omaha for the series expires in 2010. Omaha has until April 30 to reach a deal. After that, other cities could bid for the series.

More than 300,000 people attended College World Series games over 10 days last June.

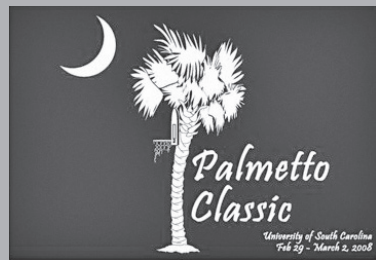
**Havens gets SEC Player of Week**

Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC shortstop Reese Havens has been named SEC Player of the Week following his weekend performance against East Carolina to start the 2007 weekend.

Havens, a junior from Sullivan's Island, finished the weekend with six RBI and seven runs scored after going 7-for-14 from the plate with two home runs. He also finished with an on-base percentage of .611 with four walks drawn and a slugging percentage of .929.

His weekend started with a career high five hits and five RBI in the 2007 season opening 22-5 win over the Pirates.



4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
SCIRSA State

## EXTRAMURAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT COLUMBIA

When: Friday Feb. 29-Sunday March 2

Where: Strom Thurmond Fitness Center

How Much: \$160

What: A basketball tournament featuring top intramural basketball teams from colleges and universities around South Carolina.

Who: Registration is open to all USC students. Registration deadline is Friday Feb. 22. Men's and Women's divisions available.

Extra Info: For more information please contact Rip Ripley at Ripleyr@mailbox.sc.edu or stop by the USC Intramural Office located in the Strom Thurmond Center between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Doing it daily.

www.  
dailygamecock  
.com

**Celebrities Hair Salon**

Shampoos & cuts, relaxers, coloring, chi straightening & much more!

We've got the look!

Convenient to USC campus!

3305 Main St.  
777-0060

Bring this ad & receive 10% off any service through Sat. March 15<sup>th</sup>!

**discover  
CAROLINA****Attention Student Groups  
and University Departments**

Discover Carolina serves as Student Media's informational guide to everything at USC and adjusting to life as a new college student. Discover Carolina introduces the first-year students to all the pertinent information like student organizations, athletics, Greek Life, Carolina traditions, academic opportunities and much more!

Deadline: March 31st

Contact Jennifer Ghelardini for  
more information  
777-4249

**the ULTIMATE  
in student living****UNIVERSITY OAKS**

888.271.5571



amenities

fully furnished  
individual leases  
shuttle to USC  
basic cable tv  
high speed internet  
basketball court

sand volleyball court  
resort-style swimming pool  
24 hr computer lab  
fitness room  
game room  
tanning bed

**STADIUM SUITES**

888.654.5568



amenities

fully furnished  
individual leases  
utilities included  
shuttle to USC  
basic cable tv  
high speed internet

basketball court  
resort-style swimming pool  
24 hr computer lab  
fitness room  
X-box room  
tanning bed

**RIVERSIDE ESTATES**

888.672.5547



amenities

fully furnished  
individual leases  
utilities included  
basic cable tv  
sand volleyball court  
tennis court

basketball court  
resort-style swimming pool  
hot tub  
24 hr computer lab  
fitness room  
pool tables

collegeparkweb.com

**RECYCLE YOUR  
PHONE BOOKS!**

Participate in the phone book recycling program. We will collect any of your old directories (USC, Bellsouth, Talking Directory, etc.)

**WHO:** Carolina Recycling

**WHAT:** Phone Book Recycling Program

**WHEN:** February 15 - March 15

**HERE'S  
HOW:  
3 EASY WAYS**

- 1 Take your phone books to the corner of Gadsden & Greene & put them in the green dumpster
- 2 Neatly stack your phone books in the main office of your department
- 3 Call 777-WORK (9675) and place a work order to have your phone books picked up\*  
\*10 or more books, please



# The Daily Gamecock classifieds

## Line classified ad rates

First insertion: \$2.50 per line  
Subsequent: \$1.50 per line

## DEADLINE

Noon, 1 business day prior to publication

## Additional Info

Two-line minimum  
Lines average 30 characters in length

## Additional options

Box around ad: \$1.25  
Logo insertion available for an additional cost

Major credit cards accepted



E-mail: [sholmes@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:sholmes@gwm.sc.edu) • Office hours: **M-F 8:30 am - 5 pm • Russell House, Rm. 343**

## Announcements



Don't miss out the Tax Stimulus REBATE check. File TAX Return FREE for ALL new Student customers. All others for only \$49 From 2/25- 3/2  
**ONLY AT HARDEN STREET LIBERTY TAX**  
College ID  
946 Harden St. 5PTS

## Apartments

Copper Beech Now Leasing  
2nd phase 1 2 3 & 4 Bedroom Brand NewTownhomes. Call today 255-0170  
[www.cbeech.com](http://www.cbeech.com)

**ROSEWOOD** - 2BR 2BA hwd fl d/w laundry rm \$675 & \$695 **310-770-1637**

## Roommates

**M/seeksrmmts** 3BR 3BA new cottage near stadium 864-933-5270 933-5271

## Housing-Rent

Olympia home fenced yard 3BR 2BA pets ok, \$800/mo **706-228-1882**.

**CONDO FOR RENT** 2BR 2BA min from USC located on River. All appl furn, \$850. Avail now! Call Matt 730-3980

## Doing it daily.

[www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com)



## Housing-Rent

**2BR 2BA** House picket fence new construction. energy eff. \$750.  
**3BR 2BA** house new construction energy eff. \$1,000. Call Jeff 238-9185.

**2BR 2BA Riverfront condo** - Close to dwntwn \$1600/mo furn. incldis util or \$1200/mo unfurn no util. **600-6873**

**LARGE PRIVATE ROOMS FOR RENT** \$240 inclds all utilities. Walk or cycle to school. Very Clean! Call 463-5129

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - 3BR 2BA short drive to campus, off st pkg. 1500 sq ft \$800/mo. **600-6874**.

## Help Wanted

**BARTENDING** up to \$250/day . No exp nec, training prov'd 800-965-6520 X 253.

**BOOKSTORE EXPERIENCE**  
Local College textbook wholesaler currently looking to hire the following positions: Inventory Manager & Warehouse Manager. Salary package based on experience. Ideal candidate will have college bookstore textbook experience. Please send resume to **Textbooks Suite F Box 151 100 Old Cherokee Road, Lexington SC 29072** or call **356-5702**.

**BELLA VISTA BRIDAL** - now accepting resumes for Sales Positions.

Downtown business hiring for clerical/computer position. **Fax resumes to 251-4371**.

Busy Allergist Office seeks, bright, hard-working, ethical students to work PT/FT in Medical Office.. Clinical & business office personnel needed. Flexible PT & FT hrs on weekends and weekdays. Evening hours available. Great experience for those students who plan to pursue a career in medicine. Only those with excellent academic records and references need apply. **Email resume to palmettoallergya@bellsouth.net**

## LOCALS IN FIVE POINTS

Now hiring **experienced** bartenders and doormen. Great PT job, good pay. **Apply in person Thurs or-Friday 4-7pm.**

## Help Wanted Instructors

NOW HIRING!



Apply today for Spring & Summer Instructor positions with The Swim Lesson Company. Complete training and free uniform provided. Good Pay-start @ \$10/hr.. Call Mr. Jim Reiser @ 665-8709 or email at [coachreiser@sc.rr.com](mailto:coachreiser@sc.rr.com)

## Help Wanted Restaurants

Exclusive downtown private club has opening for experienced pm Sous Chef, am/pm Wait staff with formal experience and pm dishwasher. Club offers competitive benefits and great work environment. **Apply in person to 1301 Gervais St. 20th fl, Tues-Fri 3-5pm. Fax resume to 771-8767 or email to [jobopening@sc.rr.com](mailto:jobopening@sc.rr.com). Drug free workplace.**

## AL'S UPSTAIRS. ITALIAN RESTAURANT

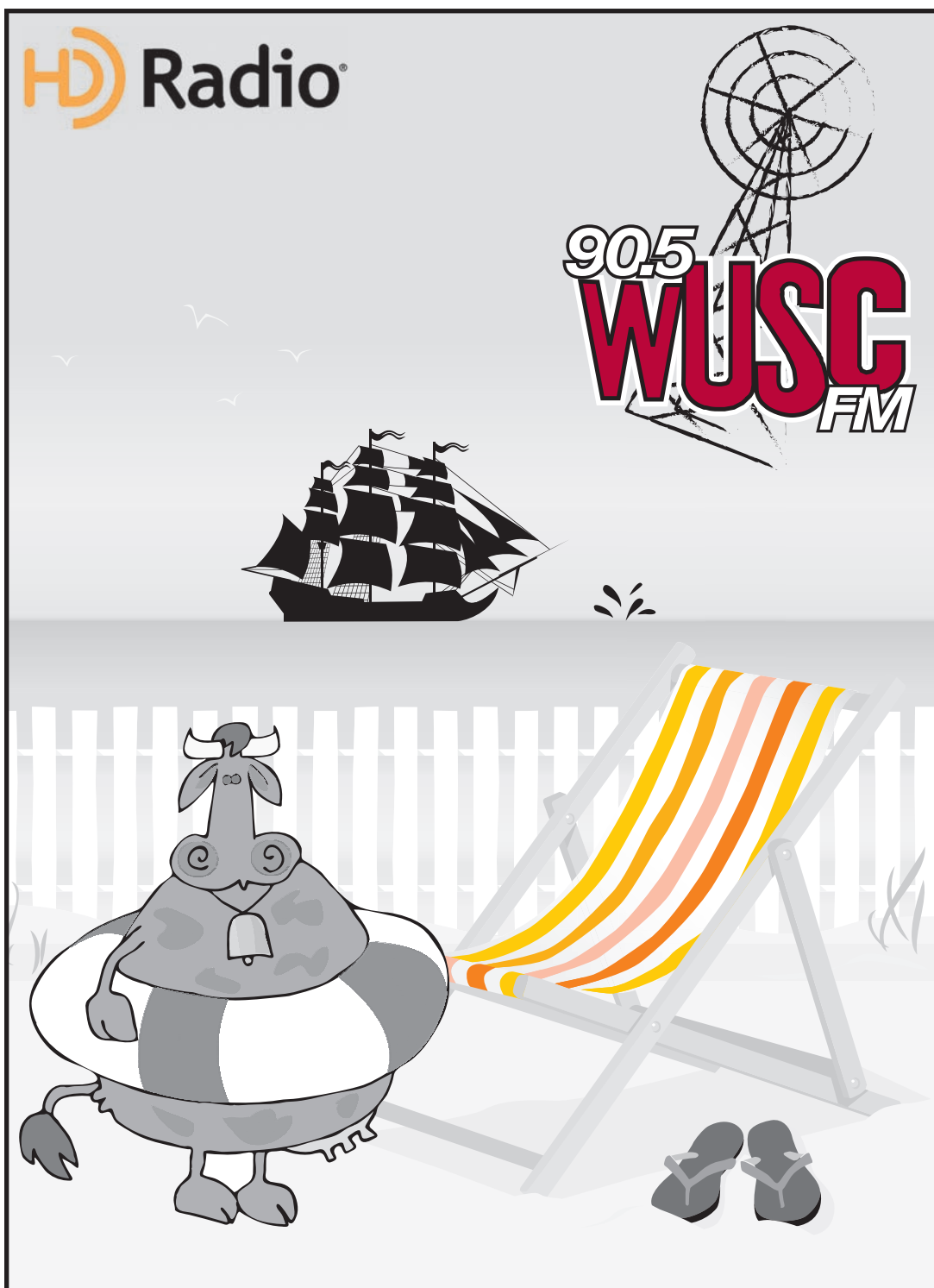
Hiring for Waitstaff/Evening hours Apply 300 Meeting St. W. Cola M-F 1-5pm **920-9406**

## Miscellaneous

Self defense products & surveillance equipment. **Kobie Campbell, owner of Heavyweight Security.** We sell: tasers, stun guns, pepper sprays, tear gas, bb guns, knives, spy glasses, voice changers, spy cameras, and etc. **Contact info.: 313-633-5530.**

## Travel

**RETREATMYRTLEBEACH.COM**  
**SPRING BREAK/GRAD WEEK**  
1-800-645-3618 Visit us at [myspace.com/retreatmyrtlebeach](http://myspace.com/retreatmyrtlebeach)  
**\$100 AND UP FOR THE WEEK!**



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



# Carolina Grad Fair!

One-stop shopping for all your graduation needs:  
Caps and gowns, frames, ring, announcements, etc.

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008**  
**from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**in the McGuire Rm at the Colonial Center**

**Brought to you by:**

- The University Bookstore @ Russell House
- CarolinaCard
- University test prep/AENC
- Carolina Alumni Association
- Career Services
- Gamecock Club
- Balfour
- Student Financial Services
- Liberty Mutual

For more information,  
please visit us online or call  
**1-866-BALFOUR (866-225-3687).**

**Balfour®**  
[www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com)